

Eddie Sleeper

From: Carol Benedict <care.benedict@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2018 5:45 PM
To: Rep. Patrick Green (District 28); Rep. Donna Lasinski (District 52); Rep. Brian Elder (District 96); Rep. Darrin Camilleri (District 23); Rep. John Reilly (District 46); Rep. Triston Cole (District 105); Rep. Jim Tedder (District 43); Rep. Joseph Bellino, Jr. (District 17); Rep. Beth Griffin (District 66); Rep. Steven Johnson (District 72); Rep. Beau LaFave (District 108); Rep. James Lower (District 70); Rep. Scott Dianda (District 110); Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. LaTanya Garrett (District 7); Rep. Tom Barrett (District 71); johnkivela@house.mi.gov; Eddie Sleeper
Subject: Testimonial for January 30th Energy Committee Hearings

Honorable Representatives of the Energy Committee,

Below is a copy of a letter sent to you in August that is applicable to the House Hearings this Tuesday in Lansing about DTE Forced Shut Offs concerning smartmeters. An update of this since August includes that he went 10 days without power before DTE responded with forced meter to restore his power.

Two days ago my 92 year old neighbor, Vic, who lives by himself, had his power shut off by DTE. He had been paying his power bills on time for 30 years in this same location. Indeed a valued customer to DTE. He is a Korean war Veteran who is now out of water (private well) and Air Conditioning in August. He, like many in my neighborhood and surrounding community has been peacefully supporting the Analog Choice Bill (HB 4220). He is concerned about the harmful health effects of smartmeters regardless of non-transmitting option. He would like the choice to keep his analog. He felt this action by DTE was strong-armed bullying and using force to make "opt-out or else . . .", a choice that does nothing to reduce the harmful, high frequency variable pulsing voltage and its transients (dirty electricity) from flowing through the circuitry of his home.

He does not want to pay more up front and monthly to keep his analog and is quite concerned about the power rate increases that might occur down the line with "time of usage", peak and off peak power rates. On his fixed income, this is always a concern come winter. He said, "I will have to do my laundry in the middle of the night."

He stated this to DTE with phone calls and attempts to resolve peacefully, yet his power was blatantly shut off. He was told his power will not be restored until he choses to "opt-out" and have analog removed.

We just learned late last night that 6 more people in our community have had their power shut off for these same reasons.

This is Urgent. Not only was power shut off, how it was done was intimidating. Four full sized white DTE vans and a tall pole reaching truck all drove up to his house. There were at least 2 people in each of these vehicles. They all got out at once as I made my way over to see what was happening. One told me not to talk to him as he was just a contractor. They had obviously been trained not to do anything but shut off and leave. Any issue was directed to an 800 number to call to resolve. I spoke

my concerns to all DTE servicemen right then and there that this would put my neighbor in a bad situation once they left. My 92 year old neighbor was scared and felt threatened by the entire spectacle and so many trucks and people to shut off his power. I had helped him make a phone call earlier that day and was told a note would be placed in his account that he had responded to them. This was useless as they proceeded anyway without regards to his elderly fragility.

Please help stop DTEs forced Shut Offs. Please help support the Analog Choice Bill so people like my neighbor can have a choice to protect their health.

With great concern going into day 3 of his power shut off,

Carol Benedict for
(Victor Coval), 92 yr old neighbor without computer
Centennial Lane
Ann Arbor, MI